REMARKS

Claims 1-171 are now pending in the application. Claim 171 is added. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the drawings and specification. As such, no new matter is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 20, 35, 53, 73, 92, 112, 131 and 151 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joergensen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,529,957) in view of Heaton (U.S. Pat. No. 5,922,052). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Joergensen, either singly or in combination with Heaton, fails to at least show, teach, or suggest a **Gigabit interface connector module** that provides autonegotiation between first and second devices. Instead, the alleged combination discloses a network interface **card**.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, Joergensen fails to disclose the limitation of **a Gigabit interface connector (GBIC) module** that provides autonegotiation between first and second devices.

As shown in an exemplary embodiment in FIGS. 3 and 4 of the present application, a Gigabit interface connector, or converter, (GBIC) module 56 communicates with a first device (e.g. a switch 50) via a 1000BASE-X protocol. The GBIC module 56 communicates with a second device 62 via a 1000BASE-T protocol. In other words, the first device communicates over a first media and the second device communicates over a second media. The GBIC module 56 **provides autonegotiation between the first device and the second device**. More specifically, Applicant notes that the GBIC module, rather than the switch 50 or the device 62, provides the autonegotiation.

Applicant further notes that a GBIC module connects to a network interface card and/or a port thereof to provide an interface between an **installed** network port and an external communication medium. For example, a cable that would typically be connected to a network port is instead connected to the GBIC module, which in turn is connected to the installed network port. Consequently, a GBIC module can be flexibly connected to a port based on existing hardware (e.g. a copper or fibre medium) without modifying the port or network card itself. (Please see, for example, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GBIC).

Applicant respectfully submits that Joergensen appears to disclose autonegotiation but fails to disclose a GBIC module that provides autonegotiation, and Heaton fails to make up for the deficiency of Joergensen. For example, the Examiner relies on FIG. 2 of Heaton to disclose a circuit 100 included within a network interface circuit, or "NIC." (Please see Column 4, Lines 45-50 of Heaton). Applicant respectfully

notes that neither the circuit 100 nor the disclosed "NIC" is a GBIC module as Applicant's claim 1 recites.

Indeed, the above cited portion of Heaton explicitly discloses that "circuit 100 can reside within an adapter card of a computer system...and/or can reside as part of the physical layer of the port circuitry." In other words, the circuit 100 appears to correspond to circuitry residing on a network card or port. In contrast, a GBIC module would itself connect to such a network port and be located external to a PC or other device that includes the network port. Further, the GBIC module is an intermediate module connected between a network card or port and an external medium such as a fibre or copper wire.

In view of the foregoing, Heaton appears to be absent of any teaching or suggestion of **a GBIC module** that provides autonegotiation and instead is directed to circuitry on an adapter card that provides autonegotiation. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons. The remaining independent claims, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should be allowable for at least similar reasons.

NEW CLAIM

With respect to claim 171, Applicant respectfully submits that Joergensen, either singly or in combination with Heaton, fails to show, teach, or suggest at least that said first device transmits a configuration ordered set that includes configuration data of said first device to said NIC, said NIC receives and stores said configuration data in memory, and said NIC transmits a first fast link pulse (FLP) burst to said second device after

storing said configuration data. In particular, Applicant respectfully notes that the alleged combination appears to be absent of any teaching or suggestion of an NIC that transmits an FLP burst to a second device after storing configuration data received from a first device.
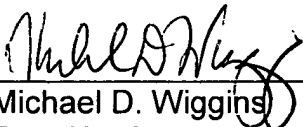
ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 13-19, 28-34, 46-52, 65-72, 85-91, 104-111, 124-130, 143-150, and 163-170 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Applicant elects to defer amending these claims into independent form until after the above amendments and remarks are considered.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 18, 2008

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